

## **Bah'ai Festivals & Holy Days**

**Ascension of Abdu'l Baha:** recalls the son of the Founder of the Bah'ai Faith, Abdul 'Baha, ascending to heaven on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1921 in Haifa, Israel. <http://www.geocities.com/~quddus/feast/fhd10.html>

**Ascension of Baha'u'llah:** commemorates the death and ascension of Mirza Husayn Ali on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1892, at Bahji, near Acre (now in Israel), following Baha'u'llah's exile and imprisonment to this region. It is observed by prayers and readings and work is suspended.

**Ayyam-I-Ha:** celebration observed by hospitality and acts of charity that marks the beginning of a series of special days (Intercalary Days) that balance out the calendar.

**Birth of the Bab:** celebration of the birth of the herald of the faith, Mirza' Ali Muhammed, in on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1819 in Shiraz.

**Birth of Baha'u'llah:** celebration of the birth of their teacher and Messiah. On this day Bah'ais refrain from work. <http://birth-of-baha-u-llah.123holiday.net/>

**Day of the Covenant:** this day, first celebrated on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 1901 is the celebration of the covenant given in the last will and testament of Baha'u'llah that appointed Abdu'l Baha as his successor.

**Declaration of the Bab:** 'The Bab' means 'the gate'. This festival recognises the declaration on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1844 by Ali Muhammed, the Bab, in Shiraz, Iran, that he was the anticipated "Coming One" of all religions. Work is suspended.

**Martyrdom of the Bab:** Bahai-Ali Muhammed was executed by firing squad on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1850 by Persian political and religious powers at a barracks in Tabriz, Iran. The day is observed by abstaining from commerce and work.

**Nineteen Day Fast:** A fast observed by Bah'ai adults in good health from sunrise to sundown when they take no food or drink.

**Ridvan:** Ridvan means Paradise. During a 12 day period from 21<sup>st</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May Bah'ai's commemorate the time in 1863 when Baha'u'llah declared that he was God's messenger for this age. Work is suspended on days 1, 9, and 12 of the festival. The election of Baha'i Assemblies takes place on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Ridvan.